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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A system for placement of an anchor in an animal subject, comprising:

a pair of anchor extensions engageable to the animal subject, each anchor extension including a proximal end and a distal end, said distal ends forming an alignment axis therebetween when engaged to the animal subject; and

a guide instrument mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions, said guide instrument including a guide member defining a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions, wherein said guide member is rotatable around said proximal ends of said anchor extensions while mounted thereto to reposition said guide axis relative to said anchor extensions while maintaining said guide axis in intersecting relation with said alignment axis, wherein said guide member includes a bore extending along said guide axis.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an inserter including a proximal portion pivotally mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and a distal portion extending transversely to said proximal portion, said distal portion being movable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions by pivoting said proximal portion relative thereto.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, further comprising a connecting element releasably engageable to said distal portion of said inserter, said connecting element being positionable along said alignment axis with said inserter.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said connecting element is a rod.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising a pair of anchors each including a distal portion engageable to a bony segment of the animal subject, said pair of anchors further each including a proximal receiver portion defining a passageway alignable along the alignment

axis, said pair of anchor extensions being mountable with a corresponding one of said receiver portions of said anchors.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said pair of anchors are multi-axial screws.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said guide instrument includes a mounting assembly coupled with said guide member, said mounting assembly being removably mounted to said pair of anchor extensions.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member and a coupling member rotatably mounted to and extending proximally from said mounting member, said mounting member being removably mounted between said pair of anchor extensions along a mounting axis.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said coupling member is removably mounted to said mounting member.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said guide member is pivotally coupled to said coupling member about a hinge axis offset from said mounting axis.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said coupling member is rotatably and removable coupled to said mounting member with a mounting pin extending through a bore of said mounting member, said bore extending along said mounting axis.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said mounting pin includes a distal portion positionable in said bore, said distal portion including a pair of longitudinal fingers and a slot between said fingers.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said pair of fingers each include a radial projecting engageable to said mounting member when said mounting pin is positioned through said bore.

15. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said mounting assembly is positionable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and clampable thereto.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein said guide instrument includes a coupling member rotatably coupled to a clamp assembly adjacent said proximal end of one of said anchor extensions, said coupling member extending from said rotatable connection with said clamp assembly to a coupling portion, said guide member being rotatably coupled to said coupling portion of said coupling member.

Claims 17-45 (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) A system for placement of an anchor in an animal subject, comprising:

a pair of anchor extensions engageable to the animal subject, each anchor extension including a proximal end and a distal end, said distal ends forming an alignment axis therebetween when engaged to the animal subject;

a guide instrument mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions, said guide instrument including a guide member defining a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions, said guide member being movable relative to said pair of anchor extensions while maintaining said guide axis in intersecting relation with said alignment axis, wherein said guide instrument includes a mounting assembly coupled with said guide member, wherein:

said mounting assembly is removably mounted to said pair of anchor extensions; and

said mounting assembly includes a mounting member and a coupling member rotatably mounted to and extending proximally from said mounting member with said

mounting member being removably mounted between said pair of anchor extensions along a mounting axis.

47. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said coupling member is removably mounted to said mounting member.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said guide member is pivotally coupled to said coupling member about a hinge axis offset from said mounting axis.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein said guide member includes a bore extending along said guide axis.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said coupling member is rotatably and removable coupled to said mounting member with a mounting pin extending through a bore of said mounting member, said bore extending along said mounting axis.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said mounting pin includes a distal portion positionable in said bore, said distal portion including a pair of longitudinal fingers and a slot between said fingers.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein said pair of fingers each include a radial projecting engageable to said mounting member when said mounting pin is positioned through said bore.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising an inserter including a proximal portion pivotally mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and a distal portion extending transversely to said proximal portion, said distal portion being movable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions by pivoting said proximal portion relative thereto.

54. (Previously presented) The system of claim 53, further comprising a connecting element releasably engageable to said distal portion of said inserter, said connecting element being positionable along said alignment axis with said inserter.

55. (Previously presented) The system of claim 54, wherein said connecting element is a rod.

56. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, further comprising a pair of anchors each including a distal portion engageable to a bony segment of the animal subject, said pair of anchors further each including a proximal receiver portion defining a passageway alignable along the alignment axis, said pair of anchor extensions being mountable with a corresponding one of said receiver portions of said anchors.

57. (Previously presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said pair of anchors are multi-axial screws.

58. (Currently amended) A system for placement of an anchor in an animal subject, comprising:

a pair of anchor extensions engageable to the animal subject, each anchor extension including a proximal end and a distal end, said distal ends forming an alignment axis therebetween when engaged to the animal subject; and

a guide instrument mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions, said guide instrument including a guide member defining a bore that extends along a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions, said guide member being movable relative to said pair of anchor extensions while maintaining said guide axis in intersecting relation with said alignment axis, wherein said guide instrument includes a mounting assembly coupled with said guide member and said mounting assembly is removably mounted to and positionable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and clampable thereto.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said guide instrument includes a coupling member rotatably coupled to a clamp assembly adjacent said proximal end of one of said anchor extensions, said coupling member extending from said rotatable connection with said clamp assembly to a coupling portion, said guide member being rotatably coupled to said coupling portion of said coupling member.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 58, further comprising an inserter including a proximal portion pivotally mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and a distal portion extending transversely to said proximal portion, said distal portion being movable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions by pivoting said proximal portion relative thereto.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 60, further comprising a connecting element releasably engageable to said distal portion of said inserter, said connecting element being positionable along said alignment axis with said inserter.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein said connecting element is a rod.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising a pair of anchors each including a distal portion engageable to a bony segment of the animal subject, said pair of anchors further each including a proximal receiver portion defining a passageway alignable along the alignment axis, said pair of anchor extensions being mountable with a corresponding one of said receiver portions of said anchors.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein said pair of anchors are multi-axial screws.

65. (Currently amended) A system for placement of an anchor in an animal subject, comprising:

a pair of anchor extensions engageable to the animal subject, each anchor extension including a proximal end and a distal end, said distal ends forming an alignment axis therebetween when engaged to the animal subject; and

a guide instrument mounted to said anchor extensions adjacent to said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions, said guide instrument including a guide member defining a bore extending along a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions, wherein said guide member is movable relative to said proximal ends of said anchor extensions while mounted thereto to reposition said guide axis relative to said anchor extensions while maintaining said guide axis in intersecting relation with said alignment axis.

66. (Previously presented) The system of claim 65, wherein said guide instrument includes a mounting assembly coupled with said guide member, said mounting assembly being removably mounted to said pair of anchor extensions.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member and a coupling member rotatably mounted to and extending proximally from said mounting member, said mounting member being removably mounted between said pair of anchor extensions along a mounting axis.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein said coupling member is removably mounted to said mounting member.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein said guide member is pivotally coupled to said coupling member about a hinge axis offset from said mounting axis.

Claim 70 (Cancelled)

71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein said coupling member is rotatably and removable coupled to said mounting member with a mounting pin extending through a bore of said mounting member, said bore extending along said mounting axis.

72. (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein said mounting pin includes a distal portion positionable in said bore, said distal portion including a pair of longitudinal fingers and a slot between said fingers.

73. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein said mounting assembly is positionable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and clampable thereto.

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 73, wherein said guide instrument includes a coupling member rotatably coupled to a clamp assembly adjacent said proximal end of one of said anchor extensions, said coupling member extending from said rotatable connection with said clamp assembly to a coupling portion, said guide member being rotatably coupled to said coupling portion of said coupling member.